

Résumé of Changes to Virginia Election Laws 2003 Regular Session

Changes are effective July 1, 2003 unless noted otherwise. All changes affecting elections in Virginia must be precleared by the U.S. Department of Justice under the Voting Rights Act before they can be implemented. Registrars will be notified if any of these are not precleared by the end of June. Local charter changes affecting elections are summarized at the end of this document. It is the responsibility of the affected locality to obtain preclearance for its charter bill and other purely local election changes (unless the locality has been “bailed out” of the preclearance requirement).

The full text of each of the cited bills can be found on the internet at <http://leg1.state.va.us/> Click on “Bills and Resolutions” and then enter the bill number (without the space). The most recent item under “full text” (normally listed as “Acts of Assembly chapter text”) is the final version.

Title 24.2, Code of Virginia - Elections

§ 24.2-106. Temporary secretaries of local electoral boards.

- Provides for another board member to be selected by the board as acting secretary when the secretary is incapacitated. The designation must be made in an open meeting and recorded in the minutes. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-106.1. Prohibiting the solicitation in public buildings of signatures for nominating petitions by electoral board members and employees.

- Prohibits the solicitation of signatures for nominating petitions for candidates for public office by electoral board members and staff in any building owned or leased by the county or city served by the electoral board. (HB 2710)

§ 24.2-107. Local electoral board meetings.

- Clearly conforms provisions on electoral board meetings to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Notice of local electoral board meetings must be given to the public, interested parties and board members as provided in FOIA (i.e. three business days except in an emergency). Specifically allows meetings to be called on shorter notice for an emergency as defined in FOIA. (SB 1107)
- Reiterates that FOIA applies to all electoral board meetings, but exempts from the notice requirements only a meeting held on election day to discuss a matter that must be resolved on that day, for the conduct of the election, (provided that if all three are not present, an effort has been made to contact all members). The secretary (or another member if the secretary is not present) should take notes of any election day meetings which can later be converted in to official minutes of the board. (SB 1107)
- States that the mere presence of two or more board members during the preparation of ballots, election materials or voting equipment, inspection of polling places, or training of election officials (which would include training for the board members themselves) does not, by itself, constitute a meeting. (Obviously, if they engage and deliberation or reach decisions, that is a meeting under FOIA.) (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-111. General registrar's office.

- Clarifies some of the "reasonable expenses" of the general registrar's offices which localities are already expected to provide. Requires that localities provide registrars with benefits as provided to other local employees. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-112. Assistants to general registrars; employees.

§ 24.2-115. Appointment, qualifications and term of officers of election.

- Provides that an unpaid or paid assistant registrar or an officer of election must be a qualified voter of the Commonwealth but does not need to be a qualified voter of the locality in which he serves as an assistant registrar or officer of election. Under current law, only paid assistant registrars are not required to be qualified voters of the locality in which they serve. (HB 1422)

§ 24.2-114. Duties of the General Registrar.

- Divides the #1 duty of the registrar into separate parts: (1) maintaining the office and (2) participating in programs to educate the public. (SB 1107)
- Clarifies that the registrar is not required to mail a notification (i.e. a denial) when the registrar does not have a mailable address for the applicant. (SB 1107)
- Directs and permits registrars to make inquiries of other states, or cooperate with inquiries from other states, whenever a person is believed to be registered or voting in more than one state at the same time (in violation of state and federal law). Presently, while other states may be able to give this information to Virginia registrars, Virginia cannot release this information to them without a subpoena or court order. (Sections 24.2-405 through 24.2-410, and 24.2-444 provide access to voter records. Only Virginia-registered voters may inspect voter registration lists and records. Certain other persons and organizations may purchase lists. No access is provided for out-of-state officials or individuals.) This provision allows registrars to respond only to out-of-state, official inquires about specific allegations of dual registration or voting, and not to the many other general and specific requests they receive from persons and agencies in other states. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-114. Duties of the General Registrar.

§ 24.2-404. Duties of State Board.

§ 24.2-604. Prohibited activities at polls.

§ 24.2-610. Materials at polling places.

§ 24.2-611. Form and signing of pollbooks.

§ 24.2-643. Qualified voter permitted to vote; procedures at polling place.

§ 24.2-651. Voter who is challenged; how challenge tried.

§ 24.2-651.1. Voter who is shown as having already voted; challenge and procedure for voting.

§ 24.2-652. Voter whose name erroneously omitted from precinct registered voter list.

§ 24.2-653. Voter whose name does not appear on precinct registered voter list.

§ 24.2-668. Pollbooks, statements of results, and ballots to be sealed and delivered to clerk or general registrar.

§ 24.2-711. Duties of officers of election (Absentee voting).

§ 24.2-656. Officers to sign pollbooks. [Repealed]

- Merges the precinct registered voter list (RVL) and precinct pollbook into a single document, to be known simply as the "pollbook." Following a number of successful pilot projects to test a merged list, the 2002 Acts of Assembly provided that the RVL and pollbook would be merged for elections held on and after July 1, 2003. The 2002 General Assembly also directed that legislation be submitted to the 2003 General Assembly to complete the merger. Allows the pollbook to be in a paper or electronic format, clarifies how the lists are marked, and authorizes additional pilot programs to test electronic pollbooks. Repeals the requirement that the officers sign the pollbooks after the polls have closed. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-115. Officers of Election.

- Clarifies that electoral boards may opt to use fewer officers of election in any election (or precinct) in which they anticipate that fewer officers will be needed for a particular election, while maintaining the required party representation at each precinct. Current law states that all officers work for all elections, except primaries, during their terms of office. (SB 1107)

- Requires that, to the maximum extent possible, officers of election representing the party holding the primary shall serve as the officers at the polls, when only one party is having a primary. Current law requires that only that party's officers serve if the party in that locality had submitted a list of officer nominations the previous January. (SB 1107)
- Specifically allows electoral boards to appoint *additional* officers of election during the year as needed, and requires that substitute and additional officers be promptly added to the public list in the registrar's office. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-116. Compensation of Officers of Election.

- Increases the minimum pay for officers working a *full* election day at the polls from \$30 per day to \$75. The minimum was last raised in 1974 -- from \$20 to \$30 -- and \$30 in 1974 is equivalent to almost \$110 today. Most localities already pay \$75 or more. (Section 24.2-115.1 already allows officers, other than the chief and assistant chief, to be assigned to work part of the time the polls are open, or "split shifts." The addition of the word "full" to § 24.2-116 clarifies that the \$75/day minimum applies to an officer working the entire election day.) (SB 1107)
- Allows localities to increase the pay of officers picking up and delivering materials in lieu of the \$10 and mileage required by the current law. SBE has been informed that some jurisdictions with large numbers of precincts do not currently calculate and pay mileage to officers of election, in the manner specified, because of the paperwork and time involved. Some provide extra pay to assistants to do this. However, the Code clearly contemplates that this duty be performed by officers of election. Under the new provision, localities would have the option of increasing pay by \$10 plus the officer's mileage (current law) or by at least \$10 and the equivalent of mileage expenses from the *furthest* polling place in the locality. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-209. Filling vacancies in House of Representatives.

- Provides that a resignation letter may not be withdrawn within 30 days of the special election or after the date of resignation specified in the letter has passed. This change parallels the changes in §§ 24.2-216, 24.2-226, and 24.2-228.1. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-216. Filling vacancies in the General Assembly.

- Provides that no election for a vacancy for the General Assembly shall be held if the term is to end within 75 days of the election, and that a resignation letter may not be withdrawn within 30 days of the special election or after the date of resignation specified in the letter has passed. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-226. Election to fill vacancy any elected local office.

§ 24.2-228.1. Election to fill vacancy in constitutional office.

- Clarifies that a special election may be called upon receipt of the local official's or constitutional officer's written notice of his resignation as of a stated date. This is already specified for vacancies for the House of Representatives (§ 24.2-209) and General Assembly (§ 24.2-216). Also provides that a resignation letter may not be withdrawn within 30 days of the special election, or after the date of resignation specified in the letter has passed. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-303.2 (superceding parts of § 24.2-303.1) Senatorial districts.

- Makes adjustments in certain senatorial district boundaries in order to conform the Senate lines to new local election precinct and district lines and avoid splitting the new local precincts between senatorial districts. The bill continues to name 2000 census precincts in order to be consistent with the district descriptions for all other districts as found in § 24.2-303.1. Boundary line adjustments are made within Brunswick, Buckingham, Fairfax, Goochland, and York Counties and the Cities of Franklin, Hampton, Hopewell, and Suffolk. Technical adjustments affect the First, Second, Third, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth, Twenty-fifth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-seventh, and Thirty-ninth Districts. All districts are within the plus or minus two percent deviation from total population equality standard used in drawing new districts in 2001. This bill contains an emergency clause (effective 3/22/03; precleared 5/8/03). (SB 792)

§ 24.2-304.02 (superceding parts of § 24.2-304.01). House of Delegates districts.

- Makes technical adjustments in the House of Delegates lines to conform legislative lines to new election district and precinct lines in several localities. All districts remain within the 2.0 percent population deviation standard followed in the 2001 redistricting. Adjustments are made within the Counties of Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Brunswick, Caroline, Fluvanna, Hanover, King William, and Prince William and the Cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hopewell, Norfolk, and Suffolk. Districts 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 51, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 64, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 87, 89, 97, 98, and 99 are affected. This bill contains an emergency clause (effective 3/22/03; precleared 5/8/03). (HB 2197)

§ 24.2-306. Changes not to be enacted within 60 days of general election; notice requirements.

- Clarifies that the registrar is to notify the voter whenever his legislative districts are changed, or his town is changed (for example, by annexation). This information is on the voter card. (SB 1107)
- Requires that the new voter card, issued when a voter's precinct, polling place or district is changed, must be mailed at least 15 days before the next election which will be affected by the change, not "the next election." (It can, of course, be mailed earlier.) (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-310. Requirements for polling places.

- Conforms the distance requirements for any polling places located outside of their precinct boundaries. Preferably, polling places are located within the precinct they serve. Occasionally, appropriate, available and accessible buildings cannot be found within the precinct boundary. Over the years, exceptions have been put into the Code, allowing the polling places to be (a) within one mile of the boundaries of certain sparsely populated precincts (§ 24.2-309), or (b) within the county or city and within 1,500 yards of the precinct boundary, or (c) for town precincts, within 1,000 yards of the precinct and town boundary. The proposed language conforms all these distances to one mile (1760 yards). Other restrictions are not affected. (SB 1107)
- Requires that, whenever a polling place must be moved because of an emergency, the electoral board shall provide notice to the voters appropriate to the circumstances of the emergency. The current language requires "notice," but it is not clear what such notice involves. SBE requires the electoral boards to tell the Secretary how they will notify the affected voters whenever SBE approval for an emergency polling place move is requested. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-404. Duties of State Board.

- (See § 24.2-114 above, on merger of RVL and pollbook)
- Clarifies that the information SBE receives from other agencies and the courts regarding deaths, felony convictions and incompetents (so-called "prohibited voters") is to be kept on a permanent database, accessible by the registrars, but separate from the database of registered voters. This is already done under the separate authorities of § 24.2-408 through 24.2-410. (SB 1107)
- Eliminates the requirement that SBE provide a locality-wide alpha roster of registered voters to each locality before each election. SBE will continue to provide the alpha roster electronically for localities that ask for it. (SB 1107)
- Clarifies that the precinct pollbooks must only be produced the precincts or portions of precincts in which the election is being held. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-404.2. National Voter Registration Act Coordinating Committee.

- Abolishes this committee, which has outlived its usefulness. (HB 2145, SB 750)

§ 24.2-405. Persons who may obtain lists of registered voters.

- Confirms the Code to state law (as directed by the Virginia Supreme Court) by clarifying that political action committees registered with the State Board of Elections or the Federal Elections Commission are allowed to purchase copies of the registered voter list for “political purposes only” (the same limitation placed on the political parties). SBE has been required to permit such purchases since the 1984 Virginia Supreme Court decision in *Mahan v. National Conservative Political Action Committee*, however the Code had not been amended to comply with the decision. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-406. Persons who may obtain lists of persons voting at primaries and elections.

- Allows the lists of those who voted in special elections to be sold to those eligible to buy these lists for general elections and primaries. (SB 1107)
- Expands from two years to four years the period for which lists may be sold. The Virginia Voter Registration System already maintains this information. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-415. Notice of terms and locations for registration.

- Deletes the requirement that the general registrar give notice each January of the schedule for voter registration times and locations for the calendar year by posting the notice at the courthouse and publishing it in a newspaper with general circulation in the county or city. The bill retains the requirements for published notice of the registration times and locations for the final day to register before each election. The bill adds publication on the official website for the county or city as a means of giving notice for certain additional registration sites and times. Specifies that notice is not required for the general registrar's regular office hours, DMV and “other voter registration agencies” under NVRA, and registration drives conducted by other persons utilizing mail-in registration forms (without a registrar present). (HB 1590)

§ 24.2-416.1. Voter registration by mail.

- Clarifies who may apply to register to vote by mail and yet not be required to vote in person the first time they vote. “In person” is currently interpreted to mean at the polls on election day or absentee in person. While some of these are already spelled out in state law, others are not. The first-time mail registrants qualified to vote by mail under the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act are disabled voters (permanent or temporary), and voters who are age 65 or older. (Under § 24.2-700, a disability qualifies a voter to vote absentee, but age by itself does not qualify a voter to vote absentee. Age only allows these first-time mail voters to vote by mail if they otherwise qualify for an absentee ballot.) The only other voters currently “entitled to vote otherwise than in person under other federal law,” and not already specified in plain language in the Code, are presidential-only absentee voters. (Any registered voter can vote absentee by mail, for any reason, for presidential electors only.) The citations of federal law, without additional explanations, can be very confusing. The new language spells out what the citations mean where the classification of voters covered by those citations are not obvious (such as “overseas” and “military”). This does not represent a substantive change in Virginia law, merely a wording change to make it more easily understood. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-423. Notice of change of name of registered voter.

- Allows SBE to conduct a pilot to accept name changes electronically. This will dovetail with SBE’s currently authorized pilot to accept address changes electronically, and will facilitate accepting this information directly from DMV, based on the documentation required by and presented to that agency at the time the voter's DMV record is updated. Also makes clarifying changes to the first sentence of the section. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-424. Change of registered voter's address within the Commonwealth.

- Provides that the notice to the voter's former locality, that the voter's registration has been transferred, shall be provided through the Virginia Voter Registration System. The VVRS already does this automatically. The transfer out appears on the losing registrar's reports the next day. (SB 1107)

- New paragraph E provides for in-state transfers of voters when there is no original, signed voter registration application on file (in the losing locality) for the voter who has moved. Most of the voters caught in this gap are those who were registered in their same localities prior to the creation of the VVRS in the early 1970s (who have only “conversion cards” on file). Others might include voters whose original, paper records had been destroyed by a fire, flood, etc. and replaced with unsigned records from the State Board’s files. Provides that the original record (not a copy) is sent to the gaining registrar, even if that record is an unsigned conversion or replacement card. (SB 1107)
- "Grandfathers," for transfer purposes, all voter registration applications previously used in Virginia for voters who are currently registered. If the combination of the new and old applications does not result in a complete application, however, registrars will still be able to get the voter to complete a new application, as required by law. (SB 1107)

§24.2-435. Cancellation records to be retained for specified periods.

- Reduces the current four-year retention requirement to two years except for registrations cancelled because the voter has moved to another state or because of changes submitted by the voter. (HB 1587)

§ 24.2-444. Registration records open to public inspection.

- Removes the requirement that voter registration records be open "upon appointment" since they are already open at any time the registrar's office is open for business. (SB 1107)
- Removes the requirement that no voter record include any indicator of the *precinct* of any person who, as a law enforcement officer or a person with a protective order, has provided a post office box for the voter lists that are accessible to the public or sold (to candidates, etc.). (SB 1107)
- Requires SBE to provide printed precinct lists for public inspection to each locality once a year (instead of twice). Printed updates will be provided on the same schedule as now. (SB 1107)
- Eliminates the requirement for SBE to provide the entire public inspection list annually for localities that make their public inspection list available electronically (i.e. on a PC that the public is given access to in the registrar's office). Those lists will be updated electronically. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-501. Statement of qualification as requirement of candidacy.

- Requires that candidates’ names on the ballot comply with the criteria established by the State Board. (These criteria are described on the back of the candidate qualification form.) (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-506. Petition of qualified voters required; number of signatures required.

§ 24.2-521. Petition required to accompany declaration; number of signatures required.

§ 24.2-543. How other groups may submit names of electors; oaths of electors.

- Voter petition requirements for independent candidates, primary candidates, and groups supporting presidential candidates. Deletes the requirement now applicable to petitions for candidates for statewide offices that a voter's signature on the petition must be witnessed by a qualified voter who is a resident of the same or a contiguous congressional district as the voter signing the petition. With this change, the witness may be a qualified voter and resident in any congressional district in the Commonwealth. (HB 1508)

§ 24.2-515. Presidential year primaries.

§ 24.2-544. Time presidential primaries to be held and completion of duties by officers of election; age qualifications for participation.

- Sets the presidential primary date as the second, rather than the last, Tuesday in February. (HB 2568, SB 959)

§ 24.2-522. When and to whom filings to be made.

- Allows the petitions submitted by the candidates to be sealed in "one or more containers" as opposed to "an envelope." (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-531. Pollbooks and ballot boxes.

§ 24.2-642. Inoperative equipment.

§ 24.2-646. Voter folds paper ballot and hands same to officer.

§ 24.2-649. Assistance for certain voters.

§ 24.2-662. Procedure when paper ballots exceed names on pollbook.

§ 24.2-711. Duties of officers of election.

§ 24.2-1004. Illegal voting and registrations.

§ 24.2-1009. Stealing or tampering with ballot boxes.

- In various code sections, replaces the specific terms "ballot box" and "ballot boxes" with the more general terms "ballot container" and "ballot containers." Some localities now use ballot bags or other types of containers to receive and hold the ballots. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-533. Party chairman entitled to copy pollbook at own expense.

- Current law allows the "party chairman" to obtain a copy of the pollbook from a primary at his expense while it is under seal in the Clerk's office (after the canvass and until 30 days after the election or the conclusion of any recount or contest for which they may be needed). This change clarifies that the "party chairman" given this access is the chairman of the appropriate (district or state) committee of the party under whose auspices the primary was held. Allows the book to be copied by photocopy or other means (scanning, etc.) so long as any indicator of a social security number is redacted or otherwise not copied, but specifies that the book may not be altered or removed from the clerk's office in the process (to insure the integrity and security of the pollbook while it is being copied). Allows the party chairman to designate a representative to make the copies. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-541. Printing of names on ballot.

- Printing ballots after the death, withdrawal, or disqualification of a political party nominee. Provides that notice of the withdrawal or disqualification of a party nominee must be given to election officials at least 60, rather than 45, days before the general election in order to have ballots for the election either printed or reprinted with the names of any replacement party candidate or new candidates who qualify for the ballot. (HB 1437)

§ 24.2-542.1. State Board to be furnished names of electors selected by political parties; certain national conventions.

- Extends the statutory deadline for a political party to file the names of its presidential and vice-presidential candidates and electors with the State Board of Elections if its national convention is being held after the deadline. The present deadline is the seventy-fourth day before the election. The state political party chairman shall file by noon on the seventy-fourth day before the presidential election, with the certification of its at-large electors, a certification of the persons expected to be nominated for President and Vice President at its national convention; (ii) the State Board of Elections shall certify candidates to the local electoral boards and ballot preparation shall proceed based on the state party chairman's certifications; and (iii) the persons nominated by the party at its national convention shall be certified to the State Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixtieth day before the presidential election. (HB 2835)

§ 24.2-545. Presidential primary.

- Confirms the petition procedures for presidential primaries to those for other statewide primaries by providing (i) that the sealed petitions shall be delivered to the appropriate party chairman for the chairman's certification of the qualifying candidates, and (ii) that if a presidential primary is called and only one candidate qualifies for the ballot, the primary will not be held. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-604. Prohibited activities at polls.

- (See § 24.2-114 above, on merger of RVL and pollbook)
- Clarifies that a candidate is permitted to visit inside the polling place on election day for no more than 10 minutes per polling place per election day. (SB 1107)
- Clarifies that the candidate is prohibited from campaigning while inside the prohibited area or polling place, but is not subject to the other restrictions on party/candidate representatives (who must be registered in that locality, present a letter of authorization, and be follow the limitations on the number of representatives per precinct). (SB 1107)
- Allows the electoral board to authorize additional neutral observers (for example, foreign or federal visitors, or vendors whose equipment is being tested). (SB 1107):
 - *I. A local electoral board may authorize in writing the presence of additional neutral observers as it deems appropriate, except as otherwise prohibited or limited by this section. Such observers shall comply with the restrictions in subsections A and D of this section.*
- Allows reporters and other news media representatives to briefly visit and film inside the polling place under certain very specific conditions. A majority of the officers of election may require a reporter or photographer found to be in violation of the restrictions of this subsection to leave the polling place and the prohibited area. (SB 1107):
 - *J. The officers of election shall permit representatives of the news media to visit and film or photograph inside the polling place for a reasonable and limited period of time while the polls are open. However, the media (i) shall comply with the restrictions in subsections A and D of this section; (ii) shall not film or photograph any person who specifically asks the media representative at that time that he not be filmed or photographed; (iii) shall not film or photograph the voter or the ballot in such a way that divulges how any individual voter is voting; and (iv) shall not film or photograph the voter list or any other voter record or material at the precinct in such a way that it divulges the name or other information concerning any individual voter. Any interviews with voters, candidates or other persons, live broadcasts, or taping of reporters' remarks, shall be conducted outside of the polling place and the prohibited area. The officers of election may require any person who is found by a majority of the officers present to be in violation of this subsection to leave the polling place and the prohibited area.*

§ 24.2-604 Prohibited Activities at the polls.

§ 24.2-639. Duties of officers of election.

§ 24.2-653. Voter whose name does not appear on precinct registered voter list.

- The changes to these three sections clarify which representatives are authorized to be present as witnesses at certain points in the election process. The provisions for representatives in special elections in Title 24.2 were inconsistent, at some points providing for no representatives, and in other cases saying that candidates had the right to designate representatives, but those representatives had to have letters signed by the party chair. Now, special election candidates who are party nominees will be treated like party nominees in general elections. That is, they will be represented by their party. Independent candidates in special elections will be treated like independent candidates in general elections or primary candidates in primaries. That is, they have their own representatives. (SB 1107)
- Allows the representative's letter, bearing the candidate's or party chairman's signature, to be photocopied. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-604.2. Polling places; prohibited area; emergency situations.

- Permits the local electoral board, with the concurrence of the State Board, to modify the distance requirements that define the prohibited area around a polling place in the event of a state of emergency declared by the Governor or President. (HB 1643)

§ 24.2-610. Materials at polling places.

§ 24.2-611. Form and signing of pollbooks.

- (See § 24.2-114 above, on merger of RVL and pollbook)

§ 24.2-612. List of offices and candidates filed with State Board and checked for accuracy; when ballots printed; number required.

- Allows SBE to print or otherwise provide to the electoral boards statewide paper ballots for (i) presidential and vice-presidential electors only (as required by federal and state law for certain voters who are not eligible to vote for other offices), and (ii) for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General (as required for early overseas absentee voting), rather than continuing to require each locality to print each of these ballots at significant cost. Also authorizes the State Board to print or otherwise provide paper ballots for each congressional district for federal offices only for overseas voters eligible to vote in federal elections only. Allows SBE or the vendor to apportion the costs among the localities based on the number of ballots ordered by participating localities. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-622. Sample ballots.

- Allows sample ballots to be posted on the Internet. Also adds to § 24.2-622, which allows voters to take sample ballots into the polling place with them, a reiteration of the prohibition on exhibiting, etc. any ballot within the polling place or prohibited area (§ 24.2-604(A)). Allows an exception when another person is assisting a voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of physical disability or inability to read or write in preparing his ballot pursuant to § 24.2-649. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-623. Ballot containers to be supplied by governing bodies; construction and custody.

- Allows ballot container attached to a counting machine to accept a non-folded ballot. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-624. Opening and closing ballot containers; opening polls.

- Replaces requirement that ballot container be turned upside down before the opening of the polls, to assure that it is empty, with a requirement that it be inspected by the officers for that same purpose. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-629. Authorized use of electronic systems and ballots.

- Permits the State Board to recoup the costs of equipment and ballot testing and certification from the vendors applying for such testing and certification. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-635. Demonstration of equipment.

- Removes the prohibition on allowing the counting mechanism to be viewed when voting equipment is being demonstrated by the electoral board, either prior to election day, or on different pieces of equipment than those on which the votes are being cast. Electoral board members report that many voters want to know how the mechanism works in order to be comfortable that their votes will be counted accurately. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-639. Duties of officers of election.

- (See § 24.2-604 above, re: party/candidate representatives)

§ 24.2-642. Inoperative equipment.

- (See § 24.2-531 above, on ballot boxes)

§ 24.2-643. Qualified voter permitted to vote; procedures at polling place; voter identification

- (See § 24.2-114 above, on merger of RVL and pollbook)
- Clarifies that a voter who requests assistance in voting because of physical disability or inability to read or write may also have assistance in preparing the affirmation of eligibility form required in lieu of identification. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-646. Voter folds paper ballot and hands same to officer.

§ 24.2-649. Assistance for certain voters.

- (See § 24.2-531 above, on ballot boxes)

§ 24.2-651. Voter who is challenged; how challenge tried.

§ 24.2-652. Voter whose name erroneously omitted from precinct registered voter list.

- (See § 24.2-114 above, on merger of RVL and pollbook)

§ 24.2-653. Voter whose name does not appear on precinct registered voter list.

- (See § 24.2-114 above, on merger of RVL and pollbook)
- (See § 24.2-604 above, re: party/candidate representatives)
- Also clarifies that voters who vote a conditional ballot have a right to be present when the electoral board meets on conditional ballots. (SB 1107)
- Conditional votes; identification requirement. Provides that a voter who is not listed on the precinct registered voter list and seeks to cast a conditional ballot must provide one of the forms of identification required of voters or sign a statement that he is the named registered voter who he claims to be, in lieu of presenting one of the listed forms of identification. The bill requires an officer of election to note on the green envelope in which the conditional ballot is placed that the voter signed a statement in lieu of showing identification. (HB 2198)
- *NOTE:* When the conditional ballots pollbook (containing only the names of voters whose conditional ballots were counted) is prepared at the direction of the electoral board the day after the election, the "S" for "statement" should be noted next to the name of any voter who signed the statement in lieu of presenting ID, just as it would be noted on the precinct pollbook if he had voted a regular ballot.

§ 24.2-656. Officers to sign pollbooks. [Repealed]

- (See § 24.2-114 above, on merger of RVL and pollbook)

§ 24.2-668. Pollbooks, statements of results, and ballots to be sealed and delivered to clerk or general registrar.

- (See § 24.2-114 above, on merger of RVL and pollbook)

§ 24.2-659. Locking voting and counting devices after election and delivering keys to clerk.

- Clarifies that equipment keys are not to be sealed in the clerk's office if the results of the election are not secured by the use of those keys (i.e. the results are secured by the removal of the memory cartridge). If the machine is secured against future voting by the removal of the memory cartridge used in that election, that memory cartridge shall be sealed in the clerk's office. These provisions are not intended to override the provisions of § 24.2-660 which deal with machines that retain the results in the machine's internal memory, in addition to a removable cartridge. In that case, the cartridge need not be secured if the machine is secured. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-662. Procedure when paper ballots exceed names on pollbook.

- (See § 24.2-531 above, on ballot boxes)

§ 24.2-668. Pollbooks, statements of results, and ballots to be sealed and delivered to clerk or general registrar.

- Provides that materials may be returned to the Registrar's office on the morning after the election. Currently, materials may be conveyed to the Clerk by noon, or to the Registrar on election night. If delivered to the registrar, the materials not needed for the canvass must be delivered by the Registrar to the Clerk by noon. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-669. Clerk to keep ballots; inspection; destruction.

- Provides that unused punchcard ballots shall be returned to the electoral board after the time for initiating a recount or contest has expired. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-671. Electoral board to meet and ascertain results; conclusiveness of results.

§ 24.2-675. Abstracts of votes to be made by secretary and forwarded to State Board and to clerks.

- Clarifies that the electoral board, after meeting in the clerk's office, may adjourn to another room designated by the board, in a public building. (SB 1107)
- Clarifies that the board opens all the returns delivered by the officers of election, whether delivered directly to the clerk's office or to the registrar's office as allowed by § 24.2-668. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-683. Writ for special election to fill a vacancy.

- Provides that the secretary of the electoral board of each county or city participating in a special election to fill a vacancy may provide public notice of the special election by posting the writ on the official website for the locality as an additional, alternative means of public notice in lieu of either posting copies of the writ in 10 public places or publishing the writ in a newspaper. (SB 702)

§ 24.2-701. Application for absentee ballot.

§ 24.2-706. Duty of general registrar and electoral board on receipt of application; statement of voter.

§ 24.2-707. How ballots marked and returned by mail; cast in person; cast on voting equipment.

- Provides that an applicant for an absentee ballot who applies in person when the printed ballot for the election is available may choose, if at least five days remain before the election, to have the absentee ballot mailed to him rather than voting the absentee ballot in person at the general registrar's office or other authorized site. Current law specifies that an applicant who applies in person for an absentee ballot must vote in person at that time and does not allow election officials to mail the ballot to the applicant. (HB 1589)
- NOTE: This new provision will not apply to the first-time mail registrant who is required to "vote in person" by § 24.2-416.1. When voting for the first time, that person must vote in person at the registrar's office or in person at the polls. His ballot cannot be mailed, even if he applies for it in person.

§ 24.2-706. Duty of general registrar and electoral board on receipt of application; statement of voter.

- Clarifies instructions on the absentee ballot return envelope, in the "Statement of Voter," regarding the absentee voter's full name and Virginia residence address. (HB 1854)

§ 24.2-707. How ballots marked and returned by mail; cast in person; cast on voting equipment.

- Clarifies that the voter may return a voted absentee ballot to the electoral board by use of a commercial delivery service (such as Federal Express or DHL), at his own expense. The new language specifically does not allow a *personal courier service* to deliver the ballot. This is consistent with other Virginia laws prohibiting a "third party" from receiving the blank ballot or delivering the voted ballot, except in certain limited situations (for example, voters hospitalized immediately before the election). (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-711. Duties of officers of election (Absentee voting).

- (See § 24.2-114 above, on merger of RVL and pollbook)
- (See § 24.2-531 above, on ballot boxes)

§ 24.2-801. Petition for recount; recount court.

§ 24.2-801.1. Petition for recount of election for presidential electors; recount court.

§ 24.2-802. Procedure for recount.

§ 24.2-805. Contest of elections of electors for President and Vice President or primaries for United States Senate or statewide office.

§ 24.2-814. Contest following recount.

- Revises the procedures for a recount or contest of a presidential election to shorten the timetable for both proceedings. The revised timetable will permit the state to meet the federal deadline for the selection of electors. If state law provides for a final decision on a presidential election at least six days before the date the electors are to meet, the state's determination is conclusive and cannot be challenged. The bill does not affect recount and contest proceedings in other elections. (HB 2635)

§ 24.2-904. Appointment of campaign treasurer; designation of campaign committee and depository.

§ 24.2-906. Books and records of candidate or his treasurer.

§ 24.2-914. Information to be included on report of contributions and expenditures.

§ 24.2-920. Final report requirement; transfer of surplus.

- Provides that candidates who seek reelection to the same office are not required to close out their campaign account and file new papers for their campaign for reelection to the same office but shall file their reports for each election cycle. An election cycle approximates the term of office. (HB 1862)

§ 24.2-905.1. Separate candidate committee account to comply with federal campaign finance law.

- Permits a candidate to maintain a separate account from his campaign account to demonstrate compliance with federal law requirements such as contribution limits and prohibitions against corporate donations. The proposal is designed to allow federal candidates and officeholders to support state and local candidates and establish their compliance with federal law restrictions on campaign contributions. The bill allows funds held in a federal compliance account to be transferred to an interest bearing account as can be done with funds in a regular campaign account. The bill requires the filing of all state-required campaign finance disclosure reports on a consolidated basis for both the basic campaign account and the special federal compliance account. (HB 1542)

§ 24.2-910.1. Referendum committees advocating passage or defeat of a referendum; disclosure .

- Requires a political committee to comply with the requirements of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act and file a statement of organization and contribution and expenditure reports if the committee makes expenditures in a calendar year to advocate the passage or defeat of (i) a statewide referendum in excess of \$10,000, (ii) a referendum held in two or more counties and cities in excess of \$5,000, and (iii) a referendum held in a single county or city in excess of \$1,000. The bill modifies the requirements for the statement of organization, requires a separate account be maintained for expenditures related to a referendum, and exempts advertisements by such committees from certain disclosure statement requirements. (HB 2304)

§ 24.2-914.1. Electronic preparation and transmittal of campaign finance disclosure reports.

- Requires political committees (including PACs and political party committees subject to the Act's reporting requirements) to file campaign finance reports electronically in accordance with State Board of Elections standards. Exceptions are made for county or city political party committees that file reports locally and for political committees that do not accept contributions or make expenditures in excess of \$10,000 in any calendar year. The bill provides for a filing deadline extension in the event of a failure in the computer and electronic filing system. (HB 1693)

§ 24.2-927. Failure to report or filing of late report a violation; certain extensions; penalties.

- Authorizes the Secretary of the State Board of Elections to extend filing deadlines for a reasonable period for any candidate who serves as his own treasurer and is called to active duty during a reporting period. (HB 2836)

§ 24.2-923. Filing schedule for persons and political committees.

- Revises the current filing schedule for political committees. In lieu of the present schedule of six reports per year, the bill requires semi-annual reports and requires pre-election and large contribution reports, if the committee is active with respect to the specific election. (HB 2196)

§ 24.2-942. Definitions.

§ 24.2-943. Basic requirements for political campaign advertisements; penalty.

- Basic requirements for political campaign advertisements. Modifies the size requirement for the disclosure statement that must be printed on "print media" political campaign advertisements under the "Stand by Your Ad" law enacted in 2002. The law as enacted requires that the disclosure statement must constitute five percent of the height of any "print media" advertisement. The bill provides that the disclosure statement shall be "displayed in a conspicuous manner." ("Conspicuous" means so written, displayed, or presented that a reasonable person ought to have noticed it.) The bill also specifically includes bumper stickers in the definition of "print media" and exempts novelty items such as pens, pencils, magnets, and buttons from the disclosure statement requirement. This bill contains an emergency clause (effective 3/16/03, precleared 5/7/03). (HB 1586)

§ 24.2-1002. Interference with registration.

§ 24.2-1003. Campaigning at registration locations.

- Clarifies the "registration locations" to which certain statutes apply. (A related change is included in § 24.2-415, on notification for additional registration locations.) Polling places are added under § 24.2-1002 (interfering with registration) because officers of election are authorized to receive registration applications and address changes at the polls. (SB 1107)
- The prohibition on campaigning at "registration locations" would not apply to locations where mail applications being offered, but no registrar is present. However, interfering with registration would be specifically prohibited at such locations. (SB 1107)
- Makes threats or force against a person "declining to apply to register" to vote a Class 1 misdemeanor. It is not acceptable to harass *anyone* over their voter registration status or decision. (SB 1107)

§ 24.2-1004. Illegal voting and registrations

- (See § 24.2-531 above, on ballot boxes)

§ 24.2-1009. Stealing or tampering with ballot boxes, voting or registration equipment, records or documents.

- (See § 24.2-531 above, on ballot boxes)

OTHER TITLES OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

Title 2.2 – Administration of Government

§ 2.2-106, etc. Information Technology Investment Board; Virginia Information Technologies Agency; Chief Information Officer.

- Establishes the Information Technology Investment Board to oversee the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) in the planning, budgeting, acquiring, managing, and disposing of major information technology projects in the State. (HB 1926)

§ 2.2-3800, etc. Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act; social security numbers; Identity theft.

- Limits the appearance of social security numbers on identification cards and parcels. The bill expands limits on acquisition and use of the personal identifying information of another, including use of identifying information of a dead person. The bill requires the Library Board to develop regulations providing for the destruction of social security numbers in public records that are being disposed of or destroyed. The bill sets up a procedure for blocking credit misinformation appearing in a credit report and expungement of false identity information in police and court records. (SB 979)

§§ 2.2-3800, etc. Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act; social security numbers; Identity theft.

- Limits the appearance of social security numbers on identification cards and parcels. The bill punishes the distribution or possession with intent to distribute another's personal identifying information or the distribution of the means by which personal information may be stolen. The bill creates a mechanism whereby a victim may expunge a criminal charge resulting from identity theft. The bill punishes obtaining goods and services, and identification documents and information of another. The bill requires the Library Board to develop regulations providing for the destruction of social security numbers in public records that are being disposed of or destroyed. The bill allows a clerk of court to refuse to record a document upon which there appears a grantor's or grantee's social security number. The bill sets up a procedure for blocking credit misinformation appearing in a credit report. (HB 2175)

§ 2.2-3800. Short title; findings; principles of information practice.

- Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act; social security numbers. Prohibits the display of a data subject's entire social security number on any student or employee identification card by public agencies on and after July 1, 2006. (HB 2063)

§ 2.2-3808. Disclosure or display of social security number.

- Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act; social security numbers. Prohibits agency-issued identification cards, student identification cards or license certificates issued or replaced after July 1, 2003, from displaying an individual's entire social security number. The bill provides exceptions from the general prohibition for the following circumstances: (i) certain licensing and identification cards issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles issued prior to July 1, 2003, which are required to be replaced no later than July 1, 2006, (ii) voter registration cards, which are required to be replaced by the December 31 next following the decennial redistricting from the 2010 census, (iii) insurance licenses issued by the State Corporation Commission, which shall be replaced no later than 12 months after the creation and implementation in all states of a national insurance producer identification number, and (iv) road tax licenses issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles to motor carriers under the terms of the International Fuel Tax Agreement. (HB 1744)

Title 15.2 – Local Government

§ 15.2-408. Vacancies in certain counties.

- Conforms § 15.2-408, concerning vacancies in constitutional offices for certain counties, with the general law enacted in 2000 (§ 24.2-228.1 and 24.2-682). This section applies to counties with the optional County Board Form of local government (presently Scott, Carroll and Russell Counties). (SB 1107)

§ 15.2-2108.2 etc. Telecommunications services; certificate.

- Creates a statutory procedure for cities and towns that operate a municipal electric utility and obtain a certificate to operate as a telephone utility to offer cable television services. Before offering cable television services, a locality is required to (i) hold a preliminary public hearing, (ii) hire a consultant to perform a feasibility study, (iii) hold public hearings on the feasibility study, (iv) determine whether such

study finds that certain revenue requirements can be met, and (v) hold a referendum. The municipality shall establish a separate department for operation of cable television services, and establish an enterprise fund to account for the provision of such services, and cross-subsidization is prohibited. The requirements of clauses (i) through (v) will not apply to a locality that had obtained a certificate to operate as a telephone utility and installed a cable television headend prior to December 31, 2002. (SB 875)

§ 15.2-3604. First election in a new town.

- Clarifies that the determination of who the qualified voters in the town are, when a new town is formed, does not preclude the registration of new voters while the registration books are open. The 90-day deadline for the electoral board to determine who the qualified voters within the town are does not impose a 90-day residency and registration deadline for the first town election. (SB 1107)

§ 15.2-3831. Transfer of voter records upon creation of a city.

- Removes obsolete provisions on how the registrar is appointed and the registration records transferred when a city is created from a county. The new language is similar to that found in the laws on transferring records after annexations (§ 15.2-3226). The obsolete language mandates the appointment of registrars for each precinct, who are paid four cents for each name transferred. (Virginia has not had Precinct Registrars since 1970.) (SB 1107)

Title 30 – General Assembly

§ 30-111. General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act; disclosure form.

- Requires disclosure by General Assembly members of certain relationships with lobbyists. The bill provides that such disclosure (i) does not constitute a waiver of the attorney-client or other privilege for third parties, (ii) requires a waiver of any attorney-client or other privilege for a third party, or (iii) is not necessary for nonfinancial indirect associations. (HB 2515)

Title 46.2 – Motor Vehicles

§ 46.2-105.2, etc. Obtaining driver's licenses, special identification cards, etc.

- Makes it a Class 6 felony to obtain any document issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) through the use of counterfeit, forged, or altered documents (unless the violation includes obtaining or possessing the documents for the purpose of engaging in an age-limited activity, in which case the violation is a Class 2 misdemeanor). The bill also provides that DMV will not issue an original license, permit, or special identification card to any applicant who has not presented with his application documentary evidence that he is either (i) a citizen of the United States, (ii) a legal permanent resident of the United States, or (iii) a conditional resident alien of the United States. (HB 1954, SB 1058)

§ 46.2-342. What license to contain.

- Driver's license numbers. Eliminates optional use of social security numbers as driver's license numbers for licenses issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2003. (HB 1593)

Title 53.1 - Prisons and Other Methods of Correction

§ 53.1-231.2. Restoration of the civil right to be eligible to register to vote to certain persons.

- Changes the definition of "violent felony," which if committed serves as a disqualifying event for any person seeking to restore his right to be eligible to register to vote. Currently, in this statute "violent felony" includes: homicide, mob violence, abduction and kidnapping, various types of assaults and bodily woundings, robbery, threats of bodily injury, and criminal sexual assaults. Also currently, the definition includes the conspiracy to commit such felonies and principals in the second degree and

accessories before the fact. The proposed change would add: burglary and related offenses, personal trespass by computer, certain offenses committed against railroads and other utilities, various firearms and weapons offenses, prostitution, sodomy, various crimes against children, various obscenity offenses, certain offenses causing riots and prohibited paramilitary activity, obstruction of justice, escapes by prisoners, conspiracy to incite one race against another, and certain felonies committed by prisoners that are listed in § 53.1-203. The proposed change includes the conspiracy and the attempt to commit such added felonies and the commission of any substantially similar offense under the laws of the United States or its territories, or of another state, or of the District of Columbia. (HB 2020)

Title 59.1 – Trade and Commerce

§ 59.1-369 etc. Virginia Racing Commission; powers; local referenda.

- Authorizes the Commission to regulate and establish fees for account wagering. The bill also (i) removes the 2005 sunset on the Commission's authority to alter the required number of live-racing days and (ii) allows towns to conduct referenda on the question of whether pari-mutuel wagering should be allowed. (SB 1152)

MISCELLANEOUS

Help America Vote Act of 2002.

- Encourages the Secretary of the State Board of Elections to lead Virginia's efforts to meet the requirements of the Help America Vote Act and obtain funds available through the Act for improving the voter registration and election process, including the development of a state plan for use of funds to improve voter registration procedures and the conduct of elections. (SJ 350)

Take Your Kids to Vote Day in Virginia.

- Designates November 4, 2003, Election Day, as “Take Your Kids to Vote Day” in Virginia. (HJ 532)

Study; acclimation of the Commonwealth's ethnically diverse population.

- Directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the acclimation of the Commonwealth's ethnically diverse populations. (HJ 604)

Federal campaign and political committees; comity.

- Provides for the regulation of federal campaign and political committees to the extent that federal law regulates Virginia campaign and political committees. The State Corporation Commission and the state Department of Taxation are given responsibilities for the enforcement of this law. Uncodified. (HB 1644)

Constitutional Amendments (First Resolution) – The following Constitutional Amendments were passed by the 2003 General Assembly. *If passed in the same form by the 2004 General Assembly, they will be placed on the November 2004 statewide ballot for approval by the voters.*

- **Effective dates of decennial redistricting measures; vacancies.** Provides explicitly that the members in office when a decennial reapportionment law is enacted shall complete their terms of office and continue to represent the districts from which they were elected for the duration of those terms of office. Any vacancy occurring during such terms will be filled from the preexisting district, i.e., the same district that elected the member whose vacancy is being filled. (SJ 417)
- **Succession office of Governor.** Expands the list of successors to the office of Governor that presently includes the Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Speaker of the House of Delegates, in case of an emergency or enemy attack that prevents the House of Delegates from meeting to elect a governor. The successors would include successor speakers, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the majority leader of the Senate. The successor would be Acting Governor until the House of Delegates

convened to elect a Governor. The amendment also includes authority for the General Assembly, by law, to provide for a waiver of certain eligibility requirements for the Attorney General and Speaker to succeed to the office of Governor in the event of an emergency or enemy attack upon the soil of Virginia. (HJ 641)

- **Restoration of civil rights certain felons.** Authorizes the General Assembly to provide by general law for the restoration of civil rights for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies who meet the conditions prescribed by law. The present Constitution provides for restoration of rights by the Governor. The amendment retains the right of the Governor to restore civil rights and adds the alternative for restoration of rights pursuant to general law for persons convicted of nonviolent felonies. (HJ 635, SJ 283)

LOCAL BILLS AND CHARTER CHANGES*

*[Note: It is the responsibility of the affected locality (county, city or town) to obtain preclearance under the Voting Rights Act for local changes affecting voting or elections, including these local bills and charter changes passed by the General Assembly. (The state obtains preclearance for election-related bills of general applicability.) The following localities have been “bailed out” of the preclearance requirement: Frederick, Roanoke, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren Counties, and the Cities of Fairfax, Harrisonburg and Winchester.]

Gloucester County. Allows Gloucester County to stagger the terms of its at-large members of the board of supervisors. This bill contains an emergency clause. (HB 2834)

City of Galax. Abolishes the elected office of the treasurer at the conclusion of the current term, January 1, 2006. All duties of the office shall be assumed by the City's Director of Finance. City voters, in a May 2002 referendum, voted to abolish the office. (HB 1808)

City of Lexington. Provides that candidates for election to city council shall not be identified by political affiliation on the ballot. (HB 2228, SB 1055)

City of Norfolk. Provides that no candidate may seek election for more than one seat in an election. A sitting member of council who files for election to a council seat other than reelection to the member's own seat and so appears on the ballot shall be deemed to have resigned his seat effective July 1 of the year in which the election is held whether or not he is elected to the new seat sought. (HB 2322)

City of Norton. Provides that no candidate for election to city council shall be identified by political affiliation on the ballot. (SB 718)

City of Poquoson. Expands the duties of the city clerk to include the administering of the oath of office to certain local officials and to include the hiring of a deputy clerk and assistants. (HB 2077, SB 1256)

Town of Blacksburg (Montgomery County). Provides that candidates for town council shall not be identified by political affiliation on the ballot. (HB 2356, SB 934)

Town of Bluefield (Tazewell County). Provides that the town treasurer shall be appointed by the town manager rather than elected by the voters of the town, and shall serve as the town's director of finance. The bill also adds certain duties to the treasurer regarding land and personal property books and taxation. (SB 1172)

Town of Boykins (Southampton County). Provides a new charter for the Town of Boykins and repeals the existing charter, enacted in 1884. The new charter contains powers typically granted to towns. (HB 2619)

Town of Chatham (Pittsylvania County). Provides for staggered terms for council members beginning with the 2004 election. (HB 2279, SB 1236)

Town of Dumfries (Prince William County). Provides that candidates for town offices shall not be identified on the ballot by political affiliation. Other changes (i) clarify the method of filling council vacancies; (ii) provide that the seat of a council member who voluntarily misses three consecutive council meetings shall be deemed vacant; (iii) simplify the procedure for passing a town ordinance; (iv) delete definitions for "publish" and "posting"; (v) provide that the town manager shall have those powers and duties granted by the council; (vi) amend the listing of town departments; and (vii) correct outdated references. (HB 1736)

Town of Gretna (Pittsylvania County). Provides for staggered terms for the town council. (HB 2069, SB 1235)

Town of Floyd (Floyd County). Moves the election date for the mayor and town council from May to November. The current mayor and town council members will have their terms reduced by six months. (HB 2068, SB 736)

Town of La Crosse (Mecklenburg County). Provides a new charter for the Town of La Crosse, in Mecklenburg County, and repeals the current charter, passed in 1901. The new charter contains provisions typically found in town charters and does not grant unusual powers. (SB 762)

Town of Orange (Orange County). Updates the town boundary description. (HB 1556)

Town of Vinton (Roanoke County). Provides that the mayor or a councilman shall not be eligible during his term of office, or for one year thereafter, for any compensated town employment. (HB 2044)

Town of Wise (Wise County). Provides that candidates for election to town council shall not be identified by political affiliation on the ballot. (HB 2177, SB 715)

If you have questions about elections legislation, contact Rosanna L. Bencoach at the State Board of Elections (804-786-6551, 800-552-9745, rbencoach@sbe.state.va.us).